

*Please amend claims 1 and 21 as follows:*

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a! 1. (Amended) A master scheduler arranged to control a near-video-on-demand (NVOD) system, the master scheduler comprising:

- a schedule management system arranged to receive and validate a schedule; and
- a content manager system arranged to monitor and control the loading of assets into a video server according to the validated schedule, wherein the assets include video content scheduled for staggered transmission to subscribers of the NVOD system using a plurality of channels, the plurality of channels including a test channel dedicated for testing a selected asset,

wherein the content manager includes a graphical user interface configured to allow an administrator to view the selected asset using the test channel to verify the integrity of the selected asset loaded into the video server.

a2 21. (Amended) A method for validation of scheduling information comprising:

- receiving at a master scheduler said scheduling information from a schedule provider;
- receiving an asset from an asset provider;
- loading said asset into a video server;
- obtaining asset information from said video server;
- comparing said asset information to said scheduling information;